

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-04

L-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDE-00 /068 W

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O P 311840Z OCT 74

FM USBEL MBFR VIENNA

TO RUEHVXSECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0557

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0368

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: CONTINGENCY PRESS TALKING POINTS ON EASTERN
FIRST-STEP PROPOSAL

1. IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE EASTERN TABLING OF FIRST-
STEP PROPOSAL ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED IN INFORMAL OF
OCT 15, AD HOC GROUP AT OCT 30 MEETING APPROVED
CONTINGENCY PRESS TALKING POINTS BELOW (SEE PARA 4).

2. IN SOVIET PLENARY STATEMENT OF OCT 31, EAST FORMALLY
INTRODUCED FIRST-STEP PROPOSALS. DURING SUBSEQUENT PRESS
BACKGROUND, SOVIET SPOKESMAN METICULOUSLY ADHERED
TO AGREED CONFIDENTIALITY RULE ON NEGOTIATION DETAILS,
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MENTIONING ONLY TABLING OF "A FEW FIRST STAGE PROPOSALS

BY THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WHICH GIVE A REPLY TO THE QUESTION WHAT COULD BE DONE TO GIVE NEGOTIATIONS A NEW IMPULSE AND MOVE THEM FORWARD." HE GAVE NO DETAILS ABOUT THESE FIRST-STEP PROPOSALS.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, UPI VIENNA CARRIED A STORY WHICH WENT A GOOD DEAL BEYOND SOVIET SPOKESMAN'S PRESENTATION. UPI QUOTED "EASTERN DELEGATES" AS SAYING THAT "THE COMMUNIST PLAN MEETS WESTERN DEMANDS THAT THE US AND THE USSR MAKE THE FIRST CUTBACK. IT ALSO CALLED FOR EARLY FOLLOW-UP ACTION BY THE NINE OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS". THIS INFORMATION IS THE RESULT OF LEAK BY POLISH DELOFF WIECZOREK, WHO PASSED THIS INFORMATION ON TO CERTAIN JOURNALISTS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE BACKGROUNDER. UPI REPORTER THEN LEFT IMPRESSION THAT EAST HAS THUS COME OVER TO ALLIED TWO-PHASE PROPOSAL BY SAYING THAT "UNTIL NOW, THE EAST HAD DEMANDED THAT ALL 11 DIRECT PARTICIPANTS REDUCE SIMULTANEOUSLY, WHILE THE WESTERN ALLIES HAVE REFUSED SO FAR TO INCLUDE OTHER NATIONS BESIDE THE US AND THE USSR IN AN INITIAL REDUCTION."

4. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING AHG-APPROVED PRESS TALKING POINTS AS BACKGROUND FOR COMMENTS. ALLIED PRESS SPOKESMAN USED CONTINGENCY (A) ONLY IN OCT 31 BACKGROUNDER. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE IN COUNTERACTING UPI LINE THAT EAST HAD NOW FALLEN IN LINE WITH ALLIED TWO-PHASED PROPOSAL IN EVERY WAY ARE DRAFT RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS (C) AND (D) IN CONTINGENCY TALKING POINTS.

A. POSSIBLE SITUATION: AN ALLIED STATEMENT IS MADE IN PLENARY.

SUGGESTED REMARKS BY WESTERN PRES SPOKESMAN:

AS YOU KNOW, YESTERDAY WAS THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. AT TODAY'S PLENARY SESSION, THE ALLIED SPEAKER REVIEWED A RANGE OF WESTERN PROPOSALS MADE OVER THE PAST YEAR SINCE THE WEST TABLED ITS OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS LAST NOVEMBER. THESE PROPOSALS
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HAVE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION EASTERN CONCERNS ABOUT THE BASIC ALLIED APPROACH AND HAVE AMPLIFIED THAT APPROACH. THE ALLIES INTEND TO MAKE EVERY APPROPRIATE EFFORT TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD IN ORDER TO BRING THEM TO A CONCLUSION WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF SECURITY AND STABILITY IN CENCAL EUROPE.

B. POSSIBLE SITUATION: THE EASTERN PRESS SPOKESMAN REVEALS DETAILS OF THE EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL FOLLOWING

THE PLENARY.

SUGGESTED ALLIED RESPONSE:

FOR OUR PART, WE ABIDE BY THE AGREED RULE THAT THE CONTENT OF THESE TALKS BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL. I CAN SAY THAT THE WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES HAVE TAKEN A CAREFUL LOOK AT THIS PROPOSAL, THE MAIN CONTENTS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN ADVANCED EARLIER. IT DOES NOT OFFER ANYTHING DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HAS BEEN PROPOSED ON MAJOR ISSUES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY THE EAST.

THE PROPOSAL CONTINUES TO HAVE THE SAME SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES AS THE ORIGINAL EASTERN PROPOSAL OF NOVEMBER 1973.

--THE PROPOSAL COMPLETELY IGNORES THE KEY ELEMENT OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE: A VERY LARGE DISPARITY IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND MAIN BATTLE TANKS, A DISPARITY INTENSIFIED BY THE FACT THAT THE MAIN MILITARY POWER ON THE WESTERN SIDE IS FAR DISTANT WHEREAS THE MAIN MILITARY POWER ON THE WARSAW PACT IS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT.

-- THE AMOUNT OF REDUCTIONS IS THE SAME AS THOSE IN THE FIRST STAGE REDUCTION CONTAINED IN THE NOVEMBER 1973 EASTERN PROPOSAL;

-- THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE REDUCTIONS PROPOSED FOR BOTH SIDES IS THE SAME AS THOSE IN THE NOVEMBER 1973 PROPOSAL, THAT IS TO SAY THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS ARE SYMMETRICAL AND DO NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DISPARITIES IN THE AREA;

-- AS REGARDS THE FORCES TO BE AFFECTED, THEY ARE THE SAME AS THOSE IN THE NOVEMBER 1973 PROPOSAL AND DO NOT FOCUS
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ON THE DISPARITY IN GROUND FORCES;

-- THE PATTERN OF PARTICIPATION IS THE SAME AS THE ONE PROPOSED IN THE EASTERN NOVEMBER 1973 PROPOOSAL. THE EAST IS STILL INSISTING THAT ALL WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS MUST COMMIT THEMSELVES ON NUMBER AND TIMING OF REDUCTIONS BEFORE ANY REDUCTIONS CAN TAKE PLACE.

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-04

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O P 311840Z OCT 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

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AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0368

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

C. POSSIBLE QUESTION: HASN'T THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE AT ALL
IN THE PRESENT EASTERN POSITION FROM THE EASTERN NOVEMBER 8
PROPOSAL?

SUGGESTED REPLY: YES, IN ONE PROCEDURAL RESPECT. THE EAST
NOW ENVISAGES TWO SEPARATE AND SUCCESSIVE AGREEMENTS. BUT THE
CONTENT OF THEIR REDUCTION PROPOSALS REMAINS THE SAME AND
DOES NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF WESTERN INTERESTS, INCLUDING THE
NEED TO DEAL WITH THE FORCE LEVEL DISPARITIES AND GEORGRAPHIC
DISPARTIES.

D. POSSIBLE QUESTION: NONETHELESS, ISN'T EASTERN AGREEMENT TO
TWO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS AN IMPORTANT MOVE TOWARD THE WESTERN
POSITION?

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SUGGESTED REPLY: EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF TWO SEPARATE AGREEMENTS IS HELPFUL FROM A PROCEDURAL POINT OF VIEW. HOWEVER, THE CONTENT OF THEIR REDUCTION PROPOSALS REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED AND REAL MOVEMENT TOWARD THE WESTERN POSITION CLEARLY DEPENDS ON THE CONTENT. AND HERE, AS WE HAVE SAID, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY MOVEMENT.

E. POSSIBLE QUESTION: WHAT HAS THE WEST DONE TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATIONS FORWARD RECENTLY? HAS THE WEST MOVED FROM ITS ORIGINAL POSITION?

SUGGESTED REPLY: YES, ON THE ISSUE OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET, WHICH HAS BEEN THE MAIN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN RECENT MONTHS, WE HAVE PUT FORWARD SEVERAL PROPOSALS DESIGNED TO MEET EASTERN CONCERNS. WE THINK THESE PROPOSALS REPRESENT A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE STILL AWAITING COMMENSURATE EASTERN MOVES.

F. POSSIBLE QUESTION: WHAT KIND OF PROPOSALS HAS THE WEST MADE TO MEET EXPRESSED EASTERN CONCERNS? YOU SAY THE WEST HAS MADE SEVERAL PROPOSALS.

SUGGESTED REPLY: OBVIOUSLY, I CAN'T GIVE YOU DETAILS. BUT THE EAST HAS BEEN WORRIED ABOUT WHETHER OTHER NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WOULD REDUCE THEIR FORCES IF A FIRST PHASE REDUCTION IS CONFINED ONLY TO US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES. IN RESPONSE WE HAVE MADE SEVERAL SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS. WE THINK WE HAVE PROVIDED A WORKABLE ANSWER TO THE EASTERN CONCERNS ON THIS ISSUE.

G. POSSIBLE QUESTION: HOW DO YOU SQUARE THESE RATHER NEGATIVE STATEMENTS ABOUT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WITH THE STATEMENT CONTAINED IN THE BREZHNEV-KISSINGER COMMUNIQUE THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE IN THESE TALKS?

SUGGESTED REPLY: AS FAR AS I KNOW, THIS EASTERN PROPOSAL WAS NOT DISCUSSED IN MOSCOW. I THINK THEY WERE REFERRING TO THE BUSINESS-LIKE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED TO DATE AND THE GENERAL EXPECTATION ON BOTH CONFIDENTIAL

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SIDES THAT THERE WILL BE A POSITIVE OUTCOME OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS.RESOR

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